

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure

In an emergency:

If SU staff, a member, or member of the public is in immediate danger or at risk of harm to themselves or others call security on 222 or emergency services on 999. You should inform the relevant Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible (see section 8.6).

1.0 Statement of Commitment

- 1.1 At Students' Union UCL (SU), we share a vision to achieve an outstanding experience for our members during their time at university and to be one of the best student organisations in the world. We will ensure that all groups of people whatever their age, gender, language, disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and culture have the right to protection from abuse and are treated fairly.
- 1.2 We recognise we have a duty to protect and promote the welfare of all children under the age of eighteen, including those in our membership. This duty also extends to, those children and young people we engage with through the work that we undertake as part of the Students Union. It is always unacceptable for anyone to experience abuse of any kind, including through social media or other online activity. Everyone has a legal right to protection from all forms of abuse and we will ensure that all safeguarding concerns are taken seriously and we will act in the best interests of the individuals concerned.
- 1.3 We are committed to safeguarding practices and procedures and to providing a welcoming, safe, positive and inclusive environment in which all can engage with the activities that the Students Union provides. This commitment also applies to the activities that we run off campus.
- 1.4 Our commitment also extends to those external organisations that our members engage with. Although these organisations are responsible for their own safeguarding arrangements we will ensure that we are satisfied with the quality of their policies and procedures and that they are aware of the standards that we expect.
- 1.5 This statement of commitment also extends to our stance on Modern Slavery. This takes many forms including forced and compulsory labour, slavery, servitude, and human trafficking. Modern Slavery is the violation of human rights and the Students Union has a zero-tolerance approach to Modern Slavery.
- 1.6 This policy should be read in conjunction with the UCL Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy and Procedure.

2.0 Aims

- 2.1 We expect all those who occupy positions of responsibility, who work, volunteer or come into contact with children during SU activities to;
 - Recognise that the welfare and interests of children and young people are paramount in all circumstances
 - protect them from abuse whilst they are participating in any activity associated with the SU;
 - promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and young people;

- create a culture where children, parents¹ and others who may have a concern are encouraged to report their concerns or the abuse that has happened to them;
- have a clear understanding of their duties and responsibilities to safeguard children and young people;
- take positive and appropriate action in the event of incidents/concerns of abuse and support the individual/s who raise or disclose the concern.

The SU will;

- provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment that promotes the social, physical, mental wellbeing and moral development of the individual child or young person;
- implement a safeguarding governance structure with assigned roles and responsibilities including the identification of DSL's (and Deputies)
- promote safeguarding arrangements to all of those who occupy positions of responsibility, who work, volunteer or come into contact with children and young people;
- ensure robust safeguarding arrangements and procedures are in operation.
- maintain and securely store confidential, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns;
- reinforce the importance of working with all partner agencies with the aim of achieving the best possible outcomes for those who we are aiming to protect from the risk of abuse;
- provide the details about the action that will be taken when a safeguarding concern is reported;
- notify the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) as soon as there is a significant concern;
- recognise that all of those who occupy positions of responsibility, who work and volunteer have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm;
- ensure that staff/volunteers involved in child protection issues receive appropriate support and supervision;
- prevent the employment/deployment of unsuitable individuals;
- ensure that staff and volunteers with roles and responsibilities for children and young people will be subject to appropriate safe recruitment checks;
- ensure that all members of staff and volunteers are trained in and receive regular updates in reporting concerns;
- Encourage anyone representing the SU to engage with all parents, advocates, carers and other relevant individuals to ensure that they are made aware of the responsibilities with regard to child protection procedures through induction packs and the publication of this policy and on the SU website;
- clearly advertise and promote the details of the designated members of staff for child protection.
- Ensure there is a safeguarding governance structure in place with assigned roles and responsibilities including the identification of Designated Safeguarding Leads within the Senior Management Team.

3.0 **Application**

¹ Parents refers to birth parents and other adults who are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers, adoptive parents and LA corporate parents.

- 3.1 These procedures apply to **all** members of staff, members and those working on behalf of the SU. The policy and associated procedures will be promoted to all new staff, members and participants as part of their induction process depending on their role. Those overseeing SU activities will have responsibility for maintaining quality and practices through their members.
- 3.2 All team members and those working on behalf of SU must be sent a copy of this policy and signify they have received it and are conversant with the content. It is crucial that Designated Safeguarding Leads promote this policy and ensure safeguarding is embedded into the culture of the SU.
- 3.3 Where the SU is working in partnership with other organisations, including affiliated organisations, they will be expected to have their own safeguarding arrangements and policies in place. It is the duty of the SU Designated Safeguarding Lead (or Deputy) to ensure that they have suitable policies in place and that this is recorded centrally within SU records.

4.0 Legislation & Statutory Guidance

4.1 The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within the UK Legislation and Government Guidance and have been developed to complement the Safeguarding Children. This includes reference to the following;

- Human Rights Act 1998
- Children and young people Act 1989
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Children and young people Act 2004
- Serious Crime Act 2015
- Working Together to Safeguard Children and young people 2018
- Keeping Children and Young People Safe in Education 2022
- Data Protection Act 2018

5.0 Definitions & Terminology

The following definitions are referred to in this policy;

Child² :

In England, Northern Ireland, and Wales a child is someone under the age of eighteen whether living with their families, in state care, or living independently (Working Together to Safeguard Children and young people 2018).

Safeguarding children is defined as:

- Protecting children from abuse and maltreatment;
- Preventing harm to children's mental and physical health or development;
- Ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care and;
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with National guidance³.

² Defined by the Children and young people Act 1989

Safeguarding concern - When there is information that a child, young person has been harmed, or is at risk of being harmed, by their own or someone else's behaviour.

Safeguarding allegation - Where a person who is either a staff member, an SU member or contractor working on behalf of the SU has⁴:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child/young person or may have harmed a child,
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child or young person
- Behaved towards a child or young person in a way that indicates that he or she may pose a risk of harm to other children or
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children or young people.

Abuse of Trust

- The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000 section 3 created the offence of abuse of trust. It is an offence for a person aged 18 or over to have sexual intercourse with a person under 18, or to engage in any other sexual activity with, or directed towards such a person, if in either case that person is in a position of trust in relation to the under 18-year-old. This applies even if the relationship is consensual.
- A person aged 18 or over ("Person A") is in a position of trust in relation to a person under that age ("Person B") if any of four conditions are satisfied. One relates to the education field and is as follows: "Person A" looks after persons who are under 18 and are receiving full-time education in an institution and "Person B" is receiving such education within that institution. This applies within the SU and includes those in a professional support role and members.
- It is a defence to show the person charged did not know, or could not reasonably have known, that the other party was a person in relation to whom he or she was in a position of trust.

Abuse⁵ - A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. They may be abused by an adult or adults or by another child or children.

Please see Appendix A for types of abuse.

Poor practice:

- Sometimes, concerns may relate to poor practice, where an adult or another young person's behaviour is inappropriate and may be causing distress to a child or young person. In the application of this policy, poor practice includes any behaviour which contravenes the principles of this document, the Code of Conduct or the Professional Boundaries Guidance. Where poor practice is serious or repeated this could also constitute abuse and should be reported immediately. Please see Low Levels Concerns Policy.

⁴ Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020

⁵ Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

- It is essential all staff and volunteers, particularly coaches understand and maintain professional boundaries when working with children and young people.

6.0 Safeguarding Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Name
Safeguarding Lead	Director of Student Experience
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Governance and Compliance Manager
Departmental Safeguarding Lead	Head of Departments (Grade 8)
Departmental Deputy Safeguarding Lead	One or two designated per department, appointed by Head of Department (Grade 7 manager or above)

6.1 There is an expectation that all members of the SU Safeguarding Team will work closely together and where circumstances dictate share agreed responsibilities and functions. However, it will be the SU Dedicated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or in their absence their deputy, that has primacy in terms of decision making around safeguarding concerns or allegations.

7.0 SU Child & Young Person Safeguarding Procedures

7.1 The aim of these procedures is to detail how members of the SU should respond if:

- they suspect that a child or young person is suffering abuse.
- a child or young person makes a disclosure or reports that they, or someone else, has been abused.
- the behaviour of an adult or child or young person towards a child or young person gives them cause for concern.

7.2 The procedures also detail the action that will be taken by the SU DSL or Deputy when a safeguarding concern is reported.

7.3 The Code of Conduct and the Professional Boundaries Guidance and Practice outlines the behaviour expected of staff and members, and those assisting in SU activities when they are engaging with children and young people. Following the Professional Boundaries Guidance and Practice will help to protect children and young people from abuse and/or inappropriate behaviour.

7.4 Where concerns are raised regarding the adherence to the Code of Conduct or the Professional Boundaries Guidance and Practice these should be reported to the DSL or their Deputy. Serious breaches may also result in a referral being made to the police or a Local Authority if it is thought the breach amounts to a risk of harm to a child or young person, and/or constitutes a crime.

8.0 Reporting a Concern

8.1.1 All staff, members, volunteers and those assisting in SU activities have a responsibility to be alert to the fact that children and young people are abused and that they **MUST** report safeguarding concerns.

8.1.2 By following the four simple safeguarding principles of Recognise, React, Record and Report, the SU can keep those children who may be at risk of abuse safe from harm.



- Be aware of the signs and indicators of abuse and neglect.
- React appropriately to what you are being told or what you see.
- All records must be accurate and comprehensive.
- SU DSL/Deputy

8.3 Recognise

8.3.1 We should all be alert for the signs and indicators that children and young people who interact or engage with the SU may be suffering abuse either within the organisation or in external environments (i.e. home, relationships, sporting events etc). We should

remember that children and young people may be abused by their peers as well as by adults.

Indicators that a child or young person may be being abused may include the following:

- Unexplained or suspicious injuries such as bruising, cuts or burns, particularly if situated on a part of the body not normally prone to such injuries,
- An injury for which the explanation seems inconsistent,
- the young person describes what appears to be an abusive act involving him/her,
- someone else (a young person or adult) expresses concern about the welfare of another,
- unexplained changes in behaviour (e.g., becoming very quiet, withdrawn or displaying sudden outbursts of temper),
- inappropriate sexual awareness,
- engaging in sexually explicit behaviour,
- sudden or unusual distrust of adults, particularly those with whom a close relationship would normally be expected,
- having difficulty in making friends,
- being prevented from socialising with other young people,
- displaying variations in eating patterns including overeating or loss of appetite; or a sudden weight change and
- becoming increasingly dirty or unkempt.

8.3.2 It should be recognised that this list is not exhaustive and the presence of one or more of the indicators is not proof that abuse is actually taking place. Establishing a professional relationship with the child/young person and their parent/guardian may assist in identifying any issues or concerns.

8.3.3 It is important to note that not all children and young people are able to express themselves verbally. Communication difficulties, language barriers or specific disabilities may mean that it is hard for them to complain, or to be understood. In some instances children and young people, particularly those with disability may need to be supported by an advocate⁶.

8.3.4 We also recognise that many children and young people may have experienced trauma in their past (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which could be affecting their behaviour and outcomes in life. We recognise that we have an important part to play in providing a safe environment for those who have suffered from such trauma and we will provide help and support through signposting them to specialist help and support.

8.4 **React**

8.4.1 It is always difficult to hear about or witness harm or abuse experienced by a child or young person. The following points will be helpful for both you and the child should they choose to disclose abuse to you:

- Stay calm.
- Listen carefully to what is said and try not to interrupt.

⁶ [National Youth Advocacy Service](#)

- Find an appropriate point early on to explain that it is likely that the information will need to be shared with others – do not promise to keep it confidential.
- Allow them to continue at their own pace.
- Ask questions for clarification only and avoid asking questions that suggest an answer (leading questions).
- Reassure them that they are not to blame and have done the right thing in telling you. If the concern is serious explain that you will need to get support from other trained people to help keep the them safe. This must be shared even if the child or young person doesn't want you to tell anyone else.
- Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared. If they are adamant that they do not wish the information to be shared, explain that you will have to tell the DSL (or Deputy) and that it will be discussed further with them.
- Be aware of the possibility of forensic evidence if the disclosure relates to a recent incident of physical harm or injury and try to protect any supporting materials e.g. clothing.
- Seek medical attention were appropriate.
- Report the disclosure to the SU DSL (or Deputy) **at the earliest** opportunity.
- Don't confront the alleged abuser.

8.4.2 Where the concern or allegation is about a member of staff, this must like all other instances be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy. If the DSL or Deputy considers the circumstances to relate to a 'Safeguarding Allegation', they must report the incident to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). Depending on the circumstances it may also be necessary to inform the police.

8.4.3 When a safeguarding concern or poor practice has been identified concerning a specific child the parents/guardians/carers should be notified **unless** this could put the child or another child at increased risk. Where the DSL/Deputy has reported the incident to a statutory agency, for example the LADO or police, advice should be sought from them regarding this duty before notifying the parents/guardians/carers.

8.4.4 Hearing about suspected or actual abuse can be upsetting. If you need advice and support you can contact your line manager, the UCL Wellbeing team, or the Employee Assistance Programme.

8.5 **Record**

8.5.1 All records must be accurate and comprehensive. Wherever possible you should use the Safeguarding Reporting Form and ensure you also notify the SU DSL or Deputy DSL.

8.5.2 You must record all potential safeguarding issues including low level concerns. Such concerns may be an indicator of that more complex harm is occurring and could identify patterns of abuse.

8.5.3 All records must,

- be made as soon as possible after the event/concern is raised.
- contain the date, time, people present, anything said (verbatim if possible).
- detail the behaviour and demeanour of the person disclosing the safeguarding issue.

- detail any action you have taken (for example how you have reduced risk or whether you have referred the matter to a Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy).
- be a factual account of what has happened.
- Adhere to confidentiality (only share with appropriate people).

8.5.4 Do not record any opinion about what has happened. You are not there to judge or ascertain whether what you are being told is correct.

8.6 Report

Remember you have a clear responsibility to report the concerns that have been raised with you immediately. Any delay in reporting could potentially cause more harm.

8.6.1 In the first instance you must report concerns that you have to the SU DSL (or Deputy) **on the telephone, in person or where appropriate, via email**. Where you use email, please ensure that you follow this up with a telephone call. The details of all safeguarding positions will be displayed on the SU website and other IT platforms used by students and the University. You can also report the matter to the UCL Safeguarding team⁷. The details of SU DSL's are below;

Responsibility	Name	Contact
Safeguarding Lead	Carl Salton-Brooks	su.safeguarding@ucl.ac.uk (TBC)
Deputy Safeguarding Lead	Governance and Compliance Manager	su.safeguarding@ucl.ac.uk (TBC)

8.6.2 If staff or members and those assisting in SU activities are working away from premises controlled by the SU for a partner organisation, then the Safeguarding Policy of that organisation should be followed. Concerns must also still be reported to the SU DSL or Deputy, and they will in turn offer any assistance to the other organisation.

8.6.3 Where the concern or allegation relates to the SU DSL then the matter should be referred to the Chief Executive.

8.6.4 Safeguarding concerns **MUST** be reported immediately (or where this is not possible at the earliest opportunity) so that the report can be assessed, and action taken to protect the person involved. If you are unsure whether you are dealing with a safeguarding concern, then you should always take advice from the DSL. We encourage everyone to take the approach 'IF IN DOUBT SHOUT'. **If any person is at immediate risk of harm or requires medical attention, then the emergency services should be contacted immediately by telephoning 999.**

8.6.5 Where you are unable to contact a DSL, advice can be sought from statutory agencies or by calling or emailing the following;

- Camden Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) <https://www.camden.gov.uk/are-you-worried-about-a-child> or call 020 7974 3317. Out of hours number - 020 7974 4444

⁷ [UCL safeguarding policies](#)

- Local Police - Telephone 101 for non-emergency referrals and 999 for emergency response.
- NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/> or call 0808 800 5000.

8.6.6 If the allegations are against a SU or UCL employee, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will liaise with their equivalent in UCL and also contact Camden LADO within 24 hours to report the allegations. They will contact the Employee Relations team in HR. Where a staff member has been accused of misconduct, they will be offered appropriate support.

9.0 Confidentiality and sharing information

- 9.1 Effective and timely sharing of information is essential for the early identification of a child's or young person's needs and to ensure that the most appropriate services are provided to keep them safe.
- 9.2 Those with concerns should be proactive in sharing information as early as possible to help the DSL and other professionals identify, assess, and respond to risks or concerns about the safety and welfare of children and young people.
- 9.3 Fears about sharing information must not be allowed to stand in the way of the need to promote the welfare, and protect the safety, of children and young people, which must always be the paramount concern. The Data Protection Act (2018)⁸ and/or the General Protection Regulations (2018) do not prevent you from sharing information in relation to safeguarding.
- 9.4 You should not assume that someone else will pass on information that you think may be critical to keeping a child or young person safe.
- 9.5 SU Staff or those acting on their behalf should aim to gain consent to share information but should be mindful of situations where to do so would place a child/young person or another at risk of significant harm.
- 9.6 Information may be shared without consent if a practitioner has reason to believe that there is good reason to do so, and that the sharing of information will enhance the safeguarding of a child or young person in a timely manner. When decisions are made to share or withhold information, practitioners should record who has been given the information and why.
- 9.7 The DSL (or Deputy) must always be contacted before information is shared with an external organisation except in cases where there is a risk of immediate or serious harm and an emergency referral is necessary. The DSL or Deputy will manage the process of sharing information with the police, local authority services and/or any third-party organisation.
- 9.8 Information should be kept confidential and should only be shared with SU members and those working on their behalf who need to know the information. If there is any doubt

⁸ The Data Protection Act 2018 contains 'safeguarding of children and young people and individuals at risk' as a processing condition that allows practitioners to share information. This includes allowing practitioners to share information without consent, if it is not possible to gain consent, it cannot be reasonably expected that a practitioner gains consent, or if to gain consent would place a child at risk

about whether to share information, or who to share it with, the DSL should be contacted for advice by telephoning or by emailing, before disclosing any information.

8.0 **Action by the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy**

8.1 The SU DSL or their Deputy will manage and respond to any safeguarding concern. Their role is **not** to investigate the concern reported or to make judgements about the individuals or allegations involved but to ensure that appropriate referrals are made to statutory agencies, and that effective internal action is taken to keep people safe.

8.2 When a safeguarding concern has been reported the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy will:

- Make an initial assessment of the information received and ensure, if not already done so, the details are comprehensively recoded. If necessary, they will advise the reporting person on the quality of the submission and can ask for further detail to be added.
- Identify any immediate risks to individuals contained within the report and respond accordingly. This could include calling 999, ensuring all possible action is taken to remove, reduce or control the risks identified.
- Where a child or young person is, or may be, at risk of harm from abuse or neglect then a safeguarding referral should be made to Children's Social Care (see section 8.6.5 for contact details). Each Local Authority will have its own submission criteria.
- Should the DSL or Deputy dispute the outcome from the Local Authority consideration will be given to follow the local escalation or professional difference policy which can be accessed on the local Children's Safeguarding Partnership website⁹.
- All action taken will be recorded in the SU Safeguarding records.
- The DSL or Deputy will actively monitor all referrals that are made and will make reasonable enquiries around progress with the Local Authority.
- Where it is decided that the information contained in the safeguarding concern constitutes a **Safeguarding Allegation** the DSL or Deputy will make a referral to children's Social Care. Internal investigations will be conducted in line with best practice ([Conducting Workplace Investigations](#)).

8.3 When a safeguarding concern is raised the DSL or their Deputy will determine what action that is needed. The action taken may include monitoring the situation, a referral to children and young people's social care or the police. The decision may also be to take no action. Whatever decision is taken the DSL or their Deputy will record this together with a rationale, even if no further action is to be taken. A decision to take no further action, monitor, or defer a decision is taken as seriously as a decision to make a referral.

⁹ <https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CSCP-Escalation-Policy-Resolving-Professional-Differences-Jan-2022.pdf>

- 8.4 Any referrals to statutory services must be made by the DSL or Deputy by the next working day, unless it is an emergency, or they consider it better for another person to make the referral and report back.
- 8.5 Any referrals to statutory services must be followed up in writing within 48 hours and feedback received/sought within three working days of having submitted the referral. This follow up is required to check what action is being/has been taken. It is the responsibility of the DSL or Deputy to ensure this takes place and to ensure that comprehensive records are maintained.
- 8.6 Each Local Authority has a process for receiving referrals and the SU must use the relevant process in their area. This will be via the Camden Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). The member of staff making the referral should complete the Local Authority's referral form in line with their thresholds document¹⁰.
- 8.7 The SU DSL in consultation with the Senior Management Team may make the decision to suspend a member of staff or SU member from their role/post. This action will not be taken without informing the relevant individual of the rationale behind the decision and ensuring that the appropriate welfare support is put into place. Any such suspension will be in accordance with other related SU policies and procedures. This information will also be shared with UCL safeguarding team.

9.0 **Procedural implementation and review:**

- 9.1 These procedures were implemented on 08/06/2023 and will be reviewed on an annual basis or in response to changes in safeguarding legislation and/or best practice.
- 9.2 The following additional policies **currently in development** are also relevant to this document:

- UCL Safeguarding Policy¹¹
- Low Level Concerns Policy
- Prevention of Bullying, Harassment and Sexual misconduct Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy
- Safeguarding Adults at Risk
- Vulnerable Persons Policy
- Whistle Blowing Policy
- Safeguarding Code of Conduct

¹⁰ <https://cscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Thresholds-for-childrens-services.pdf>

¹¹ [UCL safeguarding Policies](#)

Appendix A

Types of Abuse

Physical abuse¹²: A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse: The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child from participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyberbullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse: Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. The sexual abuse of children by other children is a specific safeguarding issue.

Neglect: The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: a. provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment) b. protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger c. ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate caregivers) d. ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Related issues in addition to the above categories, there are other forms of harm or abuse that should involve the notification of the police and other organisations working together to protect children. These include:

¹² Working together to Safeguard Children 2018

Bullying

Bullying is deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the victims to defend themselves.

The damage inflicted by bullying is often underestimated. It can cause considerable distress to children, to the extent that it affects their health and development and can be a source of significant harm, including self-harm and suicide. Bullying can include emotional and/or physical harm to such a degree that it constitutes significant harm.

The four main types of bullying are:

- Physical abuse: hitting, kicking, stabbing and setting alight including for filming with mobile telephones and theft, commonly of mobile phones
- Verbal or mobile telephone / online (internet) message abuse (e.g. racist, sexist or homophobic name-calling or threats: this type of physical bullying may include sexual harassment
- Mobile telephone or online (internet) visual image abuse: these can include real or manipulated images
- Emotional abuse e.g., isolating an individual from the group or emotional blackmail

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based forms of child physical, sexual and emotional abuse can include bullying via mobile telephones or online (internet) with verbal and visual messages.

Child Sexual Exploitation which can include Human Trafficking

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology (WTSC, 2018).

Criminal Exploitation

Criminal exploitation is also known as 'County Lines' and is when gangs and organised crime networks threaten or trick children into trafficking their drugs for them. They might threaten a young person physically or they might threaten the young person's family or friends. The gangs might also offer something in return for the young person's cooperation, this could be money, food, alcohol, drugs, clothes and jewellery, or improved status.

Gangs target vulnerable children who are homeless, living in care, or trapped in poverty. These children are unsafe, or unable to cope, and the gangs take advantage of this.

Hate crimes

Hate incidents and hate crime are acts of violence or hostility directed at people because of who they are or who someone thinks they are.

For example, it includes being verbally abused by someone in the street because of disability or sexual orientation.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is also known as female circumcision or cutting. Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM. However, FGM is child abuse. It is dangerous and a criminal offence. There are no medical reasons to carry out FGM. It does not enhance fertility and it does not make childbirth safer. It is used to control female sexuality and can cause severe and long-lasting damage to physical and emotional health

Domestic Violence & Abuse

The cross-Government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

Any incident of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Honour based violence

So-called 'honour-based' violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing. Abuse committed in the context of preserving 'honour' often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV.

Forced marriage

A forced marriage¹³ (as distinct from a consensual "arranged" marriage) is defined as one which is conducted without the valid consent of both of the parties and where duress is a factor. Duress includes both physical and emotional pressure and cannot be justified on religious or cultural grounds. Forced marriage is child abuse and can put children and young people at risk of physical, emotional and sexual violence including rape. Forced marriage can have a negative impact on a child's health and development (Forced Marriage Unit, 2018).

Radicalisation

¹³ [Forced Marriage Guidance](#)

The aim of radicalisation is to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media. Whilst there is a National Prevent agenda¹⁴ all concerns should be reported through normal child protection procedures.

¹⁴ [Prevent Guidance](#)